



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Defending the Rights of Vulnerable Children and Youth through Education: A Focus on the Role of Self-Teaching and Play

Panel I



Christopher Fabian (@hichrisfabian) is a technologist who co-founded UNICEF's Innovation Unit in 2006 with Erica Kochi. He currently is the Principal Advisor to UNICEF Ventures, a team which looks at emerging technologies in the service of positive global change. In 2015, he led the launch of UNICEF's Venture Fund, the first fund of its kind in the United Nations which invests in early stage "frontier technology" like drones and UAVs, data science and machine learning, and digital and crypto-currency. The Innovation Fund (11.2M\$) has made over 30 investments in 26 countries.

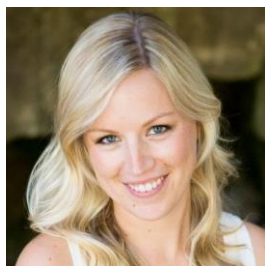
Chris's teams have worked on infrastructure platforms for low infrastructure environments, including award winning work on RapidPro, an SMS-based information system with more than 3.5M active users in 35 countries.

Chris is currently focused on scaling UNICEF's work on data science and drones. UNICEF Ventures has invested in "Magic Box," an open source data analytics platform that combines data and engineering from companies like Amadeus, IBM, Google, Telefonica, and others to produce insights and new scientific methods that help the organization make better real-time decisions. Chris lectures at NYU, Tsinghua, Singularity at NASA, and other university leaders in innovation. In 2013 he was recognized as one of TIME Magazine's "100 Most Influential People."

Panel II



Denny Johnson is Founder and Chairman of the Board of Kids Around the World, headquartered in Rockford, IL. The NGO was founded in 1994 and has built over 650 playgrounds around the globe in 64 countries. Over 500 volunteers will help install 125 playgrounds this year. Locations target difficult areas of refugee camps in Iraq and Lebanon, and other sites include Peru, Ecuador, Haiti, Swaziland, Nicaragua, Guatemala and many others. Feeding the poor is also a focus. To date, Kids Around the World has packed and shipped over 20,000,000 meals for children who are desperate for proper nourishment to learn and grow. 3,400 teachers have been trained so far this year on the use of “oral” methods of “story telling” in churches and schools worldwide.



Lindsay Groves is the Vice-President for Program Development and Evaluation at Right To Play. Lindsay joined Right To Play Headquarters in Toronto, Canada in 2008. Since that time, she has overseen complex multi-country, multi-regional partnerships. In her time with Right To Play, Lindsay has travelled and worked with Right To Play offices, civil society partners, governments and multilateral agencies in Lebanon, Jordan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Mozambique, Tanzania, Ghana and Liberia. Lindsay now oversees Right To Play’s Program Development and Evaluation team, which includes leading global program partnerships, global policy and advocacy, global program development, monitoring, evaluation and learning, and our North American programming.

Prior to joining Right To Play, Lindsay lived and worked in Ethiopia on a youth entrepreneurship and life skills project. Lindsay has a Bachelor of Arts from Queens University, a post-graduate degree in International Project Management from Humber College and a Masters of Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto.



Davut (Hakan) Habip is a father and a hacker. He has studied mathematics and management science. In 26 years of professional life, he worked in corporate sales, distribution, manufacturing, and international finance. In 2000, he came across concepts of positive change and has been a missionary for them ever since. Since 2004, he has been organizing scientific tournaments in Turkey for students between 6 and 19 years old. He is the founding chairperson of Science Heroes Association (SHA), a Turkish non-profit. SHA volunteers have reached 17,000 students from 45 cities. Mr. Habip was selected as a Change Maker by the Sabanci Foundation in 2013. Based on these experiences Mr. Habip has given two TEDx speeches and wrote an article *A Holistic Model to Empower Humanity* (2015.) He believes his approaches can help build sustainable peace in some of the most volatile parts of the world.